



The Consulates

• The U.S. Diplomatic Mission

LEIPZIG

Newsletter for English Teachers April 2004

This Newsletter for English Teachers is a bilingual product, published monthly by the Information Resource Centers in Germany. It focuses on American Studies topics of relevance to our academic audiences.

In this issue:

The 2004 Elections and Young Voters * The American Dream * Immigration: The New Immigrants *
The U.S. Constitution: America's Most Important Export * Featured Events

Topic in Focus:

The 2004 Elections and Young Voters

"Young voters represent about 18-20 million votes, depending on what age group we're looking at, and that's a tremendous number of votes. In 1992, about 20 million young people between the ages of 18 and 29 turned out to vote. And in the 2000 election, about 18 million young voters participated in the election. That represents a swing of about two million people. Youth voter mobilization campaigns such as Rock the Vote and the World Wrestling Entertainment Group's Smackdown Your Vote! campaign, are all pushing to get another two million young people to vote in the 2004 election over the 2000 election. That number would equal the number of youths that voted in 1992 and could also be enough votes to swing an election."

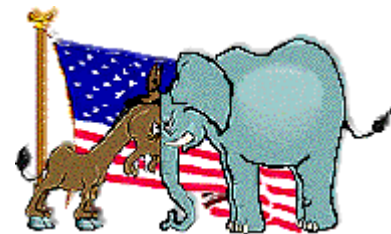
Source:

Youth Voting and the 2004 Election - An Interview with Mark Lopez
(Election Focus Newsletter, March 31, 2004)

http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/img/assets/5796/elections03_31_04.pdf

Also in this issue

- Youth Voters Concerned about the Economy, National Security
- Polls show younger and older voters agree on issues



See also:

- About the USA - US Government - Elections
 - English: <http://www.usembassy.de/usa/government-elections.htm>
 - German: <http://www.usembassy.de/usa/regierung-wahlen.htm>

- **Candidates and Parties (U.S. Department of State)**

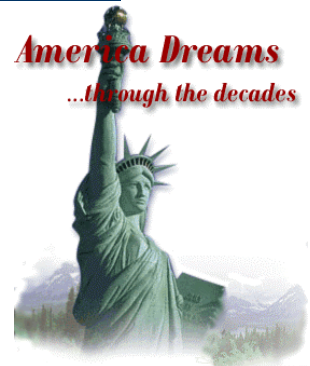
http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections/candidates_and_parties.html

The American Dream

Library of Congress - American Memories Project

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/97/dream/resource.html>

For school kids writing about that ever popular topic the "American Dream," this LOC Learning Page and the essay (with links) about "What is the American Dream" will be useful.



See also:

- **About the USA -> Virtual Classroom: Myth and Reality - The American Dream in the 21st Century**
<http://www.usembassy.de/usa/classroom/american dream.htm>
- **WebQuest: America Dreams... Through the Decades (Library of Congress)**
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/97/dream/index.html>

Immigration

The New Americans - new PBS series

Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/newamericans/>

For the new Americans of the 21st century, the attempt to forge a better life is a daily struggle filled with immigration red tape, separation anxiety, and cultural ignorance found in their adopted country -- no easier than for those who came before them. Yet, they still come. This PBS series follows Ogoni refugees, a Palestinian bride, Dominican baseball players, a Mexican laborer, and an Indian tech worker as they learn what it takes to become American. Each story begins in the subjects' homeland, and traces their gradual transition and eventual assimilation into their adopted home. Just as Italian-Americans and African-Americans have infused their culinary traditions and music into American culture, so these newcomers bring their tribal drums, bindi paints, exciting cuisines, and other native riches that slowly mesh with the existing culture. The story of America has always been layer upon layer of new beginnings. Let's see what this generation brings.

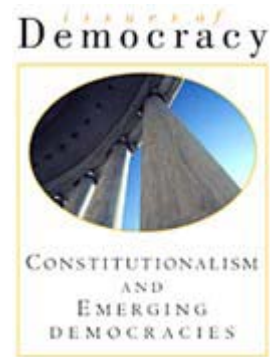
See also

- **About the USA -> Society**
<http://www.usembassy.de/usa/society.htm>
- **Lesson Plans on Immigration at Scholastic**
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/ilp/index.asp?SubjectID=2&SubheadID=5&TopicID=38>

The U.S. Constitution: Americas's Most Important Export

America's Founding Fathers drafted the world's first written constitution more than 200 years ago. The legacy of that historical document is evident today in the constitutions of most of the world's democracies, and it continues to influence drafters of the very newest constitutions. Celebrating this important document, Albert P. Blaustein, a distinguished constitutional scholar discusses in the March 2004 issue of the State Department's electronic journal "Issues of Democracy" how the Philadelphia model helped to change the world and how it continues to be a model for democratic governance.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0304/ijde/blaustein.htm>



click on image to get to
Journal's web page

From Electronic Journal "Issues of Democracy" Department of State - March 2004

See also:

- **Rights of the People: Individual Freedom and the Bill of Rights**
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/rightsof/>
- **America's Principles and Multilateral Commitment: The USA and UNESCO**
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/unesco/>

For events - please check <http://www.usembassy.de/consular/leipzig/eventnew.htm>

www.usembassy.de/irc

For questions and comments please contact the Information Resource Center
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